

TENNESSEE WEEKLY
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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Week Ending September 22, 2002

RAINFALL HELPS SOYBEANS AND PASTURES

Pastures and double-cropped soybeans were the main beneficiaries of last week’s above normal rainfall. The moisture will certainly help the development of late planted soybeans and allow farmers to proceed with their seeding of fall forage crops. Additionally, the rainfall should aid areas that were experiencing poor pasture conditions and low pond levels. The wet weather could cause some problems for cotton, however. Not only will harvest be delayed, plants, which have already been defoliated, will likely experience new growth and may have to be sprayed again. Also, many fields with open bolls were soaked which could lead to boll rot or lower quality lint. Harvest of all crops was slowed from the previous weeks rapid progress, but farmers were still able to make some headway. Corn for grain harvest surpassed the three-fourths mark and silage harvest was virtually completed. Nearly half of the State’s soybean acres were dropping leaves. Soybean harvest, which was underway on a limited basis, was on schedule and should pick up speed in the next several weeks. Tobacco harvest was nearing completion, on pace with normal. Temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees above normal for the week, while rainfall averaged well above normal across most of the State with the western half receiving the heaviest rain. There were 5 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 17 percent very short, 22 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 10 surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 19 percent very short, 35 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 7 surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through September 22, 2002					CONDITION: On September 20, 2002					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2001	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Grain - Harvested	78	68	63	68	Soybeans	7	12	29	42	10
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	45	31	43	40	Pastures	25	32	30	12	1
Soybeans - Harvested	5	N/A	4	5						
Cotton - Bolls Opening	86	73	85	88						
Cotton - Defoliated	47	42	50	59						
Cotton - Harvested	9	5	13	14						
Tobacco - Burley - Harvested	83	72	90	83						
Tobacco - Air-Cured - Harv.	90	84	95	90						
Tobacco - Fire-Cured - Harv.	88	76	90	84						

CORN: Harvest was running a week ahead of the normal pace and rapidly approaching completion. The remaining acreage to be harvested is mainly concentrated in the middle and eastern portions of the State. Corn for silage harvest was virtually wrapped up last week.

COTTON: Farmers were making good progress spraying defoliants and harvesting before the rainfall moved in and forced them out of their fields. Precipitation totals were especially heavy in western Tennessee, potentially delaying harvest.

SOYBEANS: Double-cropped soybeans received some much welcomed rain last week. With harvest underway on a limited scale, over half of the acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

TOBACCO: Harvest of burley and dark air-cured crops was on schedule with dark-fire cured slightly ahead of schedule. With the majority of tobacco already in the barns, stripping should begin next week.

PASTURES & HAY: Pastures and hay fields showed improvement after the recent rains, but more is needed, especially in the eastern half. Many farmers are getting a late start on reseeding and renovating pastures but, with the recent moisture, should begin to catch up.

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 09/23/02				Current Week 09/23/02	Rain	Current Since January 1	From Normal	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN		Days			Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	91	65	77	+8	3.07	4	41.46	+3.18	2652	+377
Tri-City_RGNL_A	88	62	74	+7	0.66	4	25.10	-5.86	2043	+472
Brownsville_TN	88	63	77	+6	4.03	6	34.92	-3.31	2778	+756
Chattanooga/Lov	87	67	77	+6	3.12	6	32.30	-7.11	2755	+570
Clarksville_Sew	88	56	75	+7	1.91	4	36.63	-0.27	2643	+604
Cookeville	87	64	75	+8	2.41	3	41.06	-0.97	2129	+853
Covington	88	60	75	+6	4.81	3	43.22	+5.82	2558	+240
Crossville_AP	84	60	72	+7	2.28	5	43.00	+1.92	1620	+173
Dickson_AG	86	61	74	+6	1.25	5	36.78	-2.71	2225	+102
Dover_1W	86	61	74	+7	2.84	5	40.95	+2.60	2378	+563
Dyersburg	88	61	75	+4	6.11	4	37.20	+0.72	2646	+187
Erwin_1W	83	63	73	+8	0.61	6	30.95	-6.51	1910	+47
Huntingdon_Wate	88	62	76	+7	2.31	5	35.94	-2.72	2541	+609
Jackson_AG	88	63	77	+7	4.06	5	38.16	+0.18	2656	+432
Kingston_AG	85	66	74	+7	5.17	4	44.73	+1.66	2312	+630
Knoxville_AP	89	66	76	+7	2.52	3	39.90	+4.69	2500	+612
Lewisburg	89	65	76	+8	2.63	7	42.39	+2.44	2250	+352
Lexington_TN	89	63	77	+6	2.40	5	40.52	+3.55	2538	+1170
Linden	91	64	77	+9	1.42	5	37.98	-2.49	2344	+432
Martin	89	58	74	+5	3.05	4	38.82	+0.35	2571	+444
Mc_Minnville_Tn	86	66	76	+7	2.83	4	39.21	-0.05	2416	+57
Memphis_AG	94	63	78	+5	4.05	5	49.76	+12.39	2748	-1
Milan	88	59	75	+7	3.33	4	36.01	-3.67	2544	+465
Murfreesboro_5N	88	65	76	+8	2.08	6	35.11	-4.16	2394	+41
Nashville_Metro	88	65	77	+7	2.15	4	36.06	+0.95	2613	+376
Newcomb	84	64	73	+9	2.09	4	38.74	-1.81	1966	+604
Oneida	86	64	73	+9	2.19	4	37.19	-3.36	1984	-26
Pikeville	89	61	76	+8	1.66	5	40.74	+1.39	2348	+501
Portland_TN	86	63	75	+8	2.72	6	36.29	-1.61	2323	+465
Pulaski_Water_P	88	67	78	+7	1.16	5	42.56	+2.41	2367	+142
Savannah_6SW	93	62	78	+7	1.65	4	45.71	+4.46	2564	+593
Sparta_TN	88	65	77	+10	2.36	4	41.13	+0.59	2345	+742
Springfield	89	57	74	+6	2.01	4	35.23	-1.17	2134	+275
Springhill	89	64	77	+9	2.90	6	37.23	-2.76	2493	+602
Union_City	88	58	74	+6	5.26	5	34.67	-2.79	2442	+382

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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